

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4071

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TAGS: OCON, ESCAP, TH

SUBJ: COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, HOUSING AND TECHNOLOGY, SECOND SESSION

REF: STATE 232873

SUMMARY: MEETING CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS GENERALLY UNEVENTFUL AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL. THE AGENDA COVERED TOO MANY ITEMS TO PROVE CONSTRUCTIVE AND SOME ITEMS DREW ONLY CURSORY ATTENTION. BUDGET LIMITATIONS, PARTICULARLY UNDP CONTRIBUTIONS, WERE REFLECTED IN SHIFTING PRIORITIES FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS. THE COMMITTEE RESOLVED TO HOLD AN ESCAP MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY SESSION IN 1977 PRECEDED BY A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING. UNIDO OFFERED COOPERATION IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THESE MEETINGS. BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS OF AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOW. ITEMS WHICH DREW LEAST DISCUSSION OR WERE SIMPLY NOTED WILL BE INCLUDED IN USDEL AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY

1. AGENDA ITEM FOUR-MOST DELEGATES COMMENDED THE ESCAP DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THIS ITEM WHICH WAS INTENDED AS THE MAIN THEME OF THE MEETING. THE COMMITTEE ADVANCED THE SUBJECT NO FURTHER THAN ADVOCATING A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS IN THE REGION; ORGANIZATION OF WORKSHOPS AT RURAL LEVELS AND THE COMPILATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE MANUAL ON RELEVANT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

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2. AGENDA ITEM 5AI-DISAPPOINTMENT PREVAILED OVER THE FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS WHICH PREVENTED THE SECRETARIAT FROM IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE'S FIRST SESSION. COMMITTEE URGED THE SECRETARIAT TO RENEW EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDING FROM DONOR COUNTRIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. AGENDA ITEM 5AII-UNIDO EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN CAREFULLY PREPARED COUNTRY STUDIES SINCE THEY WOULD COMPLEMENT THE WORLDWIDE STUDY OF AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES UNDERTAKEN BY UNIDO DURING 1976-77. THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO CONSIDER SOME FINANCIAL PROVISION TO ENABLE THE ORGANIZATION OF COUNTRY STUDIES. A1.-THE REGIONAL NETWORK FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY WAS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL DURING SEPTEMBER 1976 WITH ITS HEADQUARTERS AT LOS BANOS, PHILIPPINES. UNDP HAS APPOINTED ESCAP AS EXECUTING AGENCY FOR THE PROJECT AND BOTH JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA WERE CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. COMMENT: SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING WE HAVE LEARNED THE PROJECT IS IN TROUBLE OVER THE FAILURE OF UNDP TO CONTRIBUTE.

4. AGENDA ITEM 5(C)(1)-HABITAT DREW NO POLEMICS AND THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED A PRACTICAL APPROACH BY SIMPLY NOTING THE VANCOUVER DECLARATION AND LIMITING AREAS WHERE PROGRAMS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. COMMITTEE PROPOSED THAT ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF HABITAT SHOULD BE EXPLORED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONSULTATION WITH ACPR AND REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT CONVENING A REGIONAL MEETING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED BEFORE 1977 AND SUGGESTED THAT A CONSULTANT BE ENGAGED, FROM AVAILABLE RESOURCES, TO ASSIST THE SECRETARIAT WITH THE PREPARATORY WORK.

5. AGENDA ITEM 5(D)-SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND THE U.S., SUPPORTED THE COVENING OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION BUT QUESTIONED THE MERITS OF A HIGH LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE IN THE ESCAP REGION. THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THAT A SUB-REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE IN COOPERATION WITH UNEP. IT WAS PROPOSED THAT ESCAP AND UNEP COORDINATE PLANS FOR A PREPARATORY MEETING WITH SPEC AND SPC WHICH COULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO A HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

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6. AGENDA ITEM 6-THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED 37 ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN 1976 AND DELETED TWO PROJECTS. COMMITTEE REVIEWED 80 ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 1977, DELETED 16 PROGRAMS AND ADDED SIX NEW PROJECTS.

7. AGENDA ITEM 7-THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE SECRETARIAT PROCEED TO FINALIZE A PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE PROPOSED 1977

MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY MEETING FOR CIRCULATION TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.
COMMITTEE ALSO REQUESTED THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION
WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, TO FINALIZE THE TIMING OF THE SENIOR
OFFICIALS MEETING AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. MARAMIS WAS
TASKED TO EXPLORE FUNDING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER AGENCIES LIKE UNIDO AND UNDP. THE U.S. STATED ITS
OBJECTIONS TO QUOTE EXCLUSIVITY UNQUOTE WHICH LED TO REFERRING
TO THE MEETING IN THE FINAL REPORT AS THE QUOTE MEETING OF ESCAP
MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY. UNQUOTE
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